either at individual level or collectively which may include common arrangement for treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF).

(ii) Financial assistance has been given to set up a common facility to treat hazardous wastes in Maharashtra.

(iii) An amendment in the Hazardous Waste Rules, 1989/2000 is contemplated to make it mandatory for all industries to send their wastes to a common facility, if they cannot make their own arrangements for disposal.

(iv) Guidelines for setting up hazardous wastes treatment facilities and criteria for hazardous waste landfills have been prepared by CPCB.

(v) In order to promote recycling/reprocessing of certain wastes such as waste oil, lead acid batteries and non-ferrous metallic wastes, a scheme of registration has been introduced by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Under this scheme, industrial units that possess environmentally sound technologies and facilities for waste disposal are allowed to reprocess these wastes.

(vi) A system of mandatory collection of old/used lead acid batteries and its treatment and disposal in an environmentally sound manner has been provided for under the Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001. Similar steps are being taken in respect of waste oil.

(vii) Powers have been delegated to the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees for issuance of directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Anti-air pollution measures by NALCO and Thermal Power Plants in Orissa

4345. SHRI B. J. PANDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Unit namely NALCO and the Thermal Power Plants at Angul and Talcher in Orissa are not taking anti-air pollution measures;

(b) whether the polluted air and ashes are creating a serious health hazard in those areas; and

(c) if so, the action taken against such units?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) (a) NALCO and the Thermal Power Plants at Angul have provided requisite air pollution control facilities comprising of Dry Scrubbing System (DSS) at the Smelter Plant and Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) at Thermal Power Plant at Angul. In Talcher Thermal Power Station (NTPC) at Talcher, the Stage-II boilers have been retrofitted with modified ESPs but in State-I boiler, the retrofitting of ESP would be completed by 2002.

(b) and (c) The regular ambient air quality monitoring by the State Pollution Control Board indicates that the air quality is generally within the prescribed norms. However, there was an incident of breach in the embankment of Ash Pond II of NALCO at Angul on 31st December, 2000, which resulted in discharge of ash slurry and caused a flash flood in river Nandira and Brahamni and affected 23 villages. The Orissa Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board have issued directions for taking remedial measures to check the pollution.

Protection of Coastal Ecology

4346. SHRI. B. J. PANDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to protect the coastal ecology and environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard;

(c) the present state of coastal zones in each coastal State;

(d) whether a new National Coastal Zone Policy is proposed to be prepared; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) (a) and (b) The Government issued the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification dated 19.2.1991 to protect the country's coastal environment by regulating activities in CRZ. The Government has also constituted the National and State/Union Territories level Coastal Zone Management Authorities under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and delegated to them powers to take necessary measures for protecting and improving the quality of the coastal environment and preventing, abating and controlling environmental pollution in